

# WALKING HOLIDAYS IN AUSTRALIA 2023-2024

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA – WILPENA POUND & FLINDERS RANGES

4-days / 3-nights small group safari experience with homestead accommodation



Explore the spectacular vistas of the Flinders Ranges and Wilpena Pound with a touch of style on a safari experience in South Australia. Our small group guided experience offers a 'down to earth' yet attentive level of service; an appreciation of the finer details and most importantly a team of hosts and guides who are passionate about Australia's environment, its wildlife and culture. Enjoy unique hospitality and a stay at a remote homestead surrounded by abundant wildlife and brilliant skies.

Around 400km north of Adelaide with access by car or charter plane, our private homestead is located at the southern end of the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park.

Your stay includes twice-daily, safari-style exploration across a 60,000-acre conservation property. Our guided safari activities take advantage of the cooler mornings and late afternoons when the day is at its most comfortable, the light is at its best and the wildlife is most active. Activities are shared with other guests and curated based on interests.

Departures: Weekly, 1 April 2023 - 31 May 2023, 1 August 2023 - 31 March 2024

- **Cost from:** \$3690 per person, twin-share Extra nights available on request from \$1230 per person, twin share Single supplement available on request
- **Transfers:** Flight or road transfers available from and back to Adelaide or the Barossa Valley, including scenic road trips via Clare Valley or scenic flights over Wilpena Pound on the way. Ask for details and costs.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



**Accommodation:** Arkaba Homestead is an oasis of comfort and style amidst a harsh and rugged landscape. The 1851-built farmhouse, with its pressed metal ceilings, cool flagstone floors, open fires for frosty winters and sisal-covered bedroom floors, sleeps just 10 guests. Your friendly hosts offer personal service with attention to the small details that are so important in delivering an outstanding outback experience.

The original layout of the homestead has been retained. Each of the five guestrooms have ensuite bathrooms and open out onto a shaded veranda with individual views of the surrounding ranges. The rooms have air conditioning and heating, and the mix of king and twin beds have premium mattresses, organic cotton sheets and a choice of pillows to ensure a great night's sleep. A comfortable library with deep leather armchairs and a large stone fireplace provides seclusion for enjoying a quiet drink and a good book, while dinner is hosted on the terrace overlooking the ranges. In the heat of summer, the swimming pool overlooking the Arkaba Creek is a welcome retreat after a morning or day spent exploring the bush. There is no television, mobile phone reception or wifi, so you will be off grid and have the luxury to completely relax.

**Flinders Ranges Experience includes:** 3 nights in a comfortable king or twin guestroom with ensuite; all gourmet bush-inspired meals; bar drinks; twice daily guided safari activities including safari drives, immersive bush walks, wildlife spotting, photography and viewing hide, conservation field activities, expert knowledgeable guides.

#### **Optional:**

**Night under the Stars deluxe swag experience:** Enjoy a magical evening under the breathtaking outback starry skies at our wilderness camp. Enjoy a delicious gourmet bush-inspired dinner and sleep in our super comfy swags waking to the gentle song of the white-winged fairy-wrens. Choose this as an extra night or stay lodge-swag-lodge as part of your 3-night experience.

**Wilpena Pound - scenic flight or helicopter safari:** Get a bird's eye view over the spectacular Wilpena Pound in either a single engine aircraft or helicopter. The Helicopter Safari experience takes you along the ancient ramparts of the Ikara-Flinders Ranges and extends along Rawnsley Bluff, down the spine of Wilpena Pound, weaving amongst the cliffs of the incredible Heysen Range, through Brachina Gorge and above the vastness of Lake Torrens. Touch down for lunch at an iconic outback pub then return high above the old railway, through Edeowie Gorge, around St Mary's Peak before returning west along the Elder Range in time for a sunset drink on top of the ranges. Please ask us for details and costs.

**Private Transfers**: Direct transfers by road are available from Adelaide or Whyalla or take a scenic road trip through the Clare Valley from the Barossa Valley or Adelaide. Private air transfers may be booked from Adelaide or Kangaroo Island (Kingscote airport) with the option to add a scenic flight over Wilpena Pound. Please ask for details and costs.



#### Suggested itinerary:

#### Day 1: Flight from Adelaide (optional), arrive at the Lodge, welcome & safari.

If you have booked air transfers, depart Adelaide Airport at 12.00 noon on your private charter flight. Arrive at Arkaba Lodge in time for your 2.00pm check in and settle in. Or make your own way by road (about 5-6 hours' drive from Adelaide), planning to arrive at the lodge around 2.00pm. At 3.30pm, enjoy a guided safari experience getting to know the landscape around the homestead before dinner on the terrace overlooking the ranges.

Day 2: Full Day of Safari activities (or optional Night under the Stars swag experience)

Day 3: Full Day of Safari activities (or optional Helicopter Safari)

#### Day 4: Tour ends at the homestead. Flight to Adelaide (optional)

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the lodge before checking out at 11.00am. If taking the return flight, you will depart at 11.00am and arrive at Adelaide Airport at 1.00pm. Otherwise, you are free for your departure and own onward driving arrangements.



#### A Typical Day in the Flinders Ranges:

Wake up in the early dawn light to the morning chorus, before an early breakfast. Then, head off on one of the many safari choices on offer during your stay:

Explore the diverse landscapes of this region aboard an open topped 4WD safari vehicle designed to offer uninterrupted vantage points to view and take photos of emus, kangaroos, birds and other wildlife, accompanied by the commentary of your experienced field guide.

Head out on a guided wilderness walk as your field guides share their knowledge of the great Australian bush and the geological history, wildlife, and pastoral heritage of the area. Take in magnificent eucalyptus trees, reliable water springs, native flora, and views across this wild landscape.

Take a leisurely stroll to the hide and watch quietly as the local bird and wildlife visit the reliable watering point amongst beautiful red gum trees. You might see Ringneck Parrots, Little Eagles, or another of the 36 different bird species recently spotted there, as well as Western Grey Kangaroos, Red Kangaroos, Common Wallaroos, an Echidna, Sand Goannas, Bearded Dragons, Shingleback Skinks, and the Tawny Dragon endemic to Australia.

All morning activities return to the lodge before the heat of the day and in good time for a cool drink before lunch at around 12.30pm. Spend siesta time relaxing with a book in the cool shade, swimming in the horizon pool and watching the wildlife meander through the camp.

Later that afternoon, you might choose a drive through the surrounding hills taking in views from scenic ridge tops of Wilpena Pound, the Chace Range, the Elder and Red Range and Yappala and Yourambulla Ranges. On a clear day you may even spot Lake Torrens, the second largest salt lake in Australia. Plenty of opportunity for photography as the sun sets with a glass of South Australian wine in hand!

Return to the lodge for a gourmet meal and evening stargazing with after dinner drinks.

#### Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <u>http://www.outdoortravel.com.au</u>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia



Outdoor Travel offer a wide range of guided walking experiences in Australia and New Zealand including the Great Ocean Walk in Victoria, the Freycinet Walk in Tasmania and the rugged and remote Kimberley region of North Western Australia. In New Zealand try the Milford Sound Track guided walk, Routeburn Walk, Grand Traverse, Abel Tasman Walk or Sea-Kayak, Akaroa Walk or Queen Charlotte Walk.

We also offer a wide selection of guided or self-guided walks, cycling trips, bike and barge and boating in most destinations in **Europe** and the **United Kingdom** and many other areas of the world – ask for details.

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